

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 ACDE-00 SOE-02 AF-10 ARA-10
CIAE-00 DODE-00 EA-10 EUR-12 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NASA-01 NEA-10 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OIC-02 SP-02
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C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 06498

E.O.11652:GDS
TAGS: PARM UR US
SUBJECT: NATO DISARMAMENT EXPERTS MEETING: TALKING POINTS
ON US-USSR CHEMICAL WEAPONS NEGOTIATIONS

FOR CHARLES FLOWERREE (ACDA)

REF: GENEVA 6458 (CW MESSAGE NO. 49)

CW MESSAGE NO.52

1. THE FOLLOWING TALKING POINTS ON US-USSR CW NEGOTIA-
TIONS ARE PROVIDED FOR POSSIBLE USE BY THE US REP-
RESENTATIVES DURING THE NATO DISARMAMENT EXPERTS MEET-
INGS TO BE HELD MAY 2-3, 1978 IN BRUSSELS.

2.(A) SINCE AUGUST 1976, THE US AND USSR HAVE CONDUCTED
BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS TO SEEK AGREEMENT ON A JOINT
INITIATIVE, TO BE PRESENTED TO THE CCD, ON THE PRO-
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HIBITION OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS.

(B) THE SEVENTH ROUND OF THE NEGOTIATIONS BEGAN IN
GENEVA ON JAN 10, 1978. IT WILL END THIS WEEK (WEEK
OF MAY 1-5).

(C) THE EIGHTH ROUND WILL START AT A TIME TO BE SET

LATER, BUT CLEARLY NOT BEFORE THE BEGINNING OF THE CCD SUMMER SESSION (JULY 11).

(D) THE US AND THE SOVIET UNION BELIEVE THAT THE FUTURE CONVENTION SHOULD MEET THE OBJECTIVE OF COMPLETE, EFFECTIVE, AND VERIFIABLE PROHIBITION OF THE DEVELOPMENT, PRODUCTION AND STOCKPILING OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS. IT SHOULD ALSO PROVIDE FOR THE DESTRUCTION OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS AND FOR THE DISPOSITION OF THE CORRESPONDING PRODUCTION BASE.

(E) AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE HAS NOW EMERGED ON MOST, ALTHOUGH NOT ALL, ISSUES RELATED TO THE SCOPE OF THE PROHIBITION. GENERALLY SPEAKING, SPECIFIC CHEMICALS WOULD BE PROHIBITED TO THE EXTENT THEY HAVE NO JUSTIFICATION FOR NON-HOSTILE CIVILIAN OR MILITARY PURPOSES.

(F) BOTH SIDES ALSO AGREE THAT CHEMICAL WEAPONS STOCKPILES SHOULD BE DECLARED AND DESTROYED. THE SOVIETS, HOWEVER, OPPOSE OUR PROPOSAL THAT CORRESPONDING PRODUCTION FACILITIES ALSO BE DECLARED AND DESTROYED.

(G) THE TWO SIDES AGREE THAT ADEQUATE VERIFICATION IS AN IMPORTANT REQUIREMENT AND THAT VERIFICATION SHOULD BE BASED ON A COMBINATION OF NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL ARRANGEMENTS.

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(H) WHILE PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE ON SOME VERIFICATION QUESTIONS, NO AGREEMENT HAS YET BEEN REACHED ON METHODS FOR VERIFYING THE DESTRUCTION OF CHEMICAL WEAPON STOCKS AND THE DISPOSITION OF CORRESPONDING PRODUCTION FACILITIES. THE US HAS PROPOSED INTERNATIONAL ON-SITE INSPECTION IN BOTH CASES, ON-SITE INSPECTION WHICH WOULD BE AGREED IN ADVANCE.

(I) WE HAVE INDICATED TO THE SOVIETS THAT THE US CONSIDERS ADEQUATE VERIFICATION ARRANGEMENTS DEALING WITH DESTRUCTION OF STOCKS AND DISPOSITION OF FACILITIES AS ESSENTIAL. LACKING SUCH ADEQUATE VERIFICATION ARRANGEMENTS, WE HAVE INDICATED THAT WE SEE THE PROSPECTS FOR REACHING AGREEMENT ON A JOINT INITIATIVE AS DIM INDEED.

(J) THE US AND THE USSR WILL CONTINUE THEIR BEST EFFORTS TO COMPLETE THE BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS ON THIS IMPORTANT AND EXTREMELY COMPLEX PROBLEM AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

(K) WE RECOGNIZE THE INTEREST OF OUR ALLIES IN CHEMICAL WEAPONS RELATED ISSUES AND WILL TRY TO KEEP THEM INFORMED

ON DEVELOPMENTS IN THE BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS.

3. YOU MAY ALSO DRAW ON REFTEL IF GREATER DETAIL IS
DESIRED. VANDEN HEUVEL

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